SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISPLAYING TEXT

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] This application relates to a system and method for displaying text and, more particularly, a system and method for displaying text in a manner conducive to comfortable and efficient reading.

BACKGROUND

[0002] In the English language, text typically is presented as a series of sentences grouped into paragraphs, as shown in **FIG. 1**. The text may flow from left to right across the width of a page (or column) and then vertically down the page (or column).

[0003] Researchers have recognized that the typical format for presenting text (i.e., the paragraph format) has several disadvantages and may violate the natural tendencies of the human eye. See Andrews, R. B., Reading Power Unlimited, *Texas Outlook,* 1949, 33, 20-21, the entire content of which are incorporated herein by reference. Particularly, the paragraph format does not fully take advantage of a reader's ability to read and comprehend text. The paragraph format focuses on the horizontal span of the human eye and ignores the human eye's ability to scan in the vertical direction.

[0004] Accordingly, Andrews (1949) presented the concept of square span, wherein text is broken down and arranged into a series of small units of words. Each unit typically includes 2 lines of words, with each line having 2 to 3 words. Thus, the reader may comprehend each unit as a whole, rather than a sum of its parts.

[0005] Andrews (1949) theorized that the square span arrangement of text allows for quicker and more efficient reading. Each unit of square span includes a vertical component (i.e., the lines are arranged vertically) and a horizontal component (i.e., the words in a line extend horizontally). Thus, the square span arrangement takes advantage of the relationship between the horizontal span and the vertical span of the human eye.

[0006] Various other techniques have been employed to facilitate faster and more efficient reading. U.S. Pat. No. 4,643,450 to Morris, the entire content of which are incorporated herein by reference, discloses a textual display wherein the text is presented as a plurality of short lines printed across a scan bar, wherein selected words are bolded or printed in a different color. U.S. Pat. No. 5,802,533 to Walker, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference, discloses the concept of enhancing text by horizontally displacing consecutive lines of text.

[0007] Despite the attempts of the prior art, there remains a need for a system and method for displaying text in a manner conducive to comfortable and efficient reading.

SUMMARY

[0008] In one aspect, the system and method provides a method for displaying text including the steps of providing a text, arranging the text into a plurality of word clusters, wherein at least one selected word cluster of the plurality of word clusters includes at least two lines of words and each line of words includes at least two words, and emphasizing at least one word in the selected word cluster.

[0009] In another aspect, the system and method provides a method for displaying text including the steps of providing a text having a plurality of words, arranging the words into a plurality of word clusters, wherein at least two selected word clusters each include at least two lines of words and each line of words includes at least two words, and altering the typeface, the font and/or the color of at least one word in each of the selected word clusters with respect to the other words in the selected word clusters.

[0010] In another aspect, the system and method provides a textual display including a display medium and a text displayed on the display medium as a plurality of word clusters, wherein at least two selected word clusters each includes at least two lines of words and each line of words includes at least two words, wherein at least one word in each of the selected word clusters is emphasized.

[0011] In another aspect, the system and method provides a method for displaying text including the steps of providing a text, arranging the text into a plurality of word clusters, wherein at least one selected word cluster includes at least one spoken word and at least one non-spoken word, and altering the typeface, the font and/or the color of the spoken word with respect to the non-spoken word.

[0012] Other aspects of the system and method will become apparent from the following description, the accompanying drawings and the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013] **FIG. 1** is a sample of text displayed in the paragraph format of the prior art;

[0014] **FIG. 2** is the sample of text of **FIG. 1** displayed according to a first aspect of the system and method;

[0015] **FIG. 3A** is a selected word of the text of **FIG. 2** having a first appearance;

[0016] **FIG. 3B** is the selected word of **FIG. 3A** having a second appearance;

[0017] **FIG. 3C** is the selected word of **FIG. 3A** having a third appearance;

[0018] **FIG. 3D** is the selected word of **FIG. 3A** having a fourth appearance;

[0019] **FIG. 3E** is the selected word of **FIG. 3A** having a fifth appearance;

[0020] **FIG. 3F** is the selected word of **FIG. 3A** having a sixth appearance;

[0021] **FIG. 3G** is the selected word of **FIG. 3A** having a seventh appearance;

[0022] **FIG. 3H** is the selected word of **FIG. 3A** having a eighth appearance;

[0023] **FIG. 3I** is the selected word of **FIG. 3A** having a ninth appearance;

[0024] **FIG. 3J** is the selected word of **FIG. 3A** having a tenth appearance; and

[0025] **FIG. 4** is a sample of text displayed according to a second aspect of the system and method.